

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PU030301	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/US2004/006205	International filing date (day/month/year) 27.02.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.02.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. H04N7/34 H04N7/68			
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A. et al.			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau)</i> a total of 5 sheets, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the International Bureau only)</i> a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 			
Date of submission of the demand 08.10.2004	Date of completion of this report 16.05.2006		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Kuhn, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7630		



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2004/006205

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-32 received on 08.10.2004 with letter of 07.10.2004

Drawings, Sheets

15-55 as originally filed

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos. 25, 26
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2004/006205

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-32
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-32
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-32
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.
PCT/US2004/006205

Re Item V

1 The following document is referred to in this communication:

D1 : US 2002/181594 A1 (KIM CHANG-SU ET AL) 5 December 2002 (2002-12-05)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1 - NOVELTY

2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 discloses:

1. A method of concealing, at a JVT-compliant (D1: p1/sections 7 and 11) decoder, spatial errors in an image comprised of a stream of coded macroblocks compressed in accordance with the JVT coding standard, comprising the steps of:
 - a) examining each JVT-coded macroblock for pixel data errors, and if any such errors exist (D1: p7-10/sect 88-116, Fig. 6/612, 608), then
 - b) weighting at least one JVT-coded macroblock at the JVT-compliant decoder, in accordance with at least one reference picture to yield a weighted prediction for concealing a macroblock found to have pixel errors (D1: p7-10/sect 88-116, Fig. 6).

The person skilled in the art is aware that the ITU-T standard H.264, which is referred to as "JVT" in claim 1, is equivalent to the MPEG-4 part 10 AVC standard. MPEG-4 is explicitly mentioned in D1: p1/sections 7 and 11. Moreover, amending "decoder" in claim 1 to "JVT-compliant decoder" still does not overcome the lack of inventive step in claim 1. A person skilled in the art could apply error concealing at the decoder, as written in claim 1, to macroblocks coded and decoded by any standard.

In response to the communication by the applicant, claim 1 does not disclose how a JVT-compliant decoder uses JVT weighting parameters in order to achieve error concealment.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/US2004/006205

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 22, 23, 32 - NOVELTY

- 3 Since the subject-matter of each of independent claims 22, 23, 32 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 1, the same reasoning as given for claim 1 will apply mutatis mutandis. Therefore claims 22, 23, 32 also do not meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).
- 4 **DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-21, 24-31**

Dependent claims 2-21, 24-31 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

Re Item VIII

- 5 Although claims 1, 22, 23, 32 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought or in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness and as such do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.
- 6 The terms "implicit" and "explicit" used in claims 2, 3, ff. are vague and unclear and leave the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which they refer, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear, Article 6 PCT.